Summary of the Discussions of the NCI-Tobacco Working Group Meeting in Bethesda, Maryland, November 9 and 10, 1970.

Working Group Members Present: Baker, Chairman
Gori, Program Director
Tso
Saffiotti
Bock
Boutwell
Spears
Wynder
Kensler
Senkus
Van Duuren
Wakeham

Guests Present: Dr. Oscar Auerbach
Dr. Robert Huebner
Dr. John Berg

1. Introductory remarks by Dr. Baker (recently appointed Director of the National Cancer Institute): On the subject of budgets, he stated that NCI expects to get more money for carcinogenesis, some of which might be available for the Tobacco Working Group. The current level of TWG expenditures is $880,000, while the total effort in lung cancer is about $2 million.

Dr. Baker described the movement ~~from~~ for a massive approach to solving the cancer problem as exemplified by the Yarborough Amendment creating a study panel to explore the possibilities of this kind of a program. He expressed doubt that the program would be activated, but declared himself to be preparing in the eventuality that approval would be given by Congress and the Executive Branch. He invited Dr. Wynder to summarize the New York meeting of an informal "International Study Group on Tobacco and Health Research." The summary of Dr. Wynder's report is attached.

Dr. Baker stated that the National Cancer Advisory Council had undergone some changes -- Drs. Farber and Wright are off the Council. New members are Dr. Crabenhoff and Dr. Shubik. He stated that the Council is not giving encouragement to the Tobacco Working Group program, feel that the program is of minor importance relative to the entire cancer problem. At this point Dr. Wynder interjected that the introduction of low delivery cigarets may be solving the lung cancer problem. He stated that people who are smoking the low delivery cigarets have a "very low risk of lung cancer." The reduced potency of cigarets today is exemplified by his estimate that, whereas 15 years ago the threshold level of smoking which would give rise to appreciable risk of lung cancer was felt to be 10 cigarets per day, this threshold is now changed to about 20 cigarets per day. He says that in his opinion the only solution to the smoking and health problem is to get the public to smoke real low delivery cigarets. One reason for this is that he feels the anti-cigaret commercials are backfiring, as evidenced by the fact that young people are taking up smoking in greater numbers than ever before.

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